

# Oklahoma Baptist University

## Tornado Emergency Plan

The OBU Police Department and other campus personnel monitor conditions carefully to be prepared for severe weather. The University Police Department also monitors the local Law Enforcement frequencies, Shawnee Emergency Management, and local news stations. The University Police Department and all campus RA desks are equipped with weather radios that provide alerts for watches and warnings in the area.

It is important that students, faculty and staff understand the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning.

A **TORNADO WATCH** means that conditions are conducive to the development of the type of weather that could cause a tornado. If a tornado watch is issued, you will need to stay alert to weather conditions.

A **TORNADO WARNING** indicates that a tornado has been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning areas. In the event of a tornado warning, OBU will alert the campus community and you will need to move to shelter immediately. The University Police Department will relay information to Residence Directors and appropriate OBU personnel who will notify students when the tornado warning is terminated.

### **Response to tornado warnings while in student housing**

In the event of threatening weather, while in housing, students will be notified by the Residential Life Staff who will direct all students to take cover any time there is a tornado warning in the vicinity. (You may also hear the facilities alarm system and/or the Shawnee Tornado Siren.) **DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING** unless instructed to do so by university administration or Residential Life Staff. Move immediately into the designated areas of your residence hall indicated below. During severe weather, you should not be near any outside windows or doors if possible. The locations listed for these facilities are considered to be the safest location for that building. Please remain in these locations until the **TORNADO WARNING** is terminated.

<b>Residence Hall</b>	<b>Designated Area</b>
Agee	First Floor Lobby
East Devereaux*	Closet, Bathroom or Hallway
Howard Apartments*	Closet or underneath your stairs
Howard Residence Center*	First Floor Hallways
Kerr	First Floor
Midland Apartments*	Downstairs Bathroom/Hallway
MacArthur Apartments*	Downstairs Bathroom/Hallway
Taylor*	First Floor Hallway
WMU	First Floor Hallway
West U Apartments*	Downstairs Bathroom/Hallway
Married Housing*	Downstairs/Center Apartment
Village Apartments	Safe Rooms
The Lodge	Safe Rooms

\*If possible and safe to do so, residents of East Devereaux, Howard Residence Center and Apartments, MacArthur Apartments, Taylor, West U, Midland Apartments, and Married Housing (West Devereaux, Cobbs and Burns) should go to the basement of Raley Chapel for shelter.

Residents of Agee, Kerr, and WMU should remain in the first floor designated areas of their buildings and residents of the village apartments should remain in safe rooms for shelter.

It is recommended you take a pillow or blanket with you in the event of a tornado siren. These items should be used to cover your head from potential flying debris.

### **Residential Life Staff**

Kyle Opskar, Resident Director of Agee

Erin Guleserian, Resident Director of WMU

Dayla Rowland, Resident Director of Kerr, Howard Residence Center and Apartments, East Devereaux Apartments

Lanie Allred, Resident Director of Taylor, West University Apartments

Tanner Roberts, Resident Director of Residential Village

Residential Life Staff will have a designee assigned in their absence, to direct students to shelters.

### **Response to tornado warnings while in class or other activities outside of residence halls**

If there is a tornado warning while students are in class, and immediate cover is necessary, move immediately into the safest area of the building (lowest level of building, closet, or under stairs). During severe weather, you should not be near any outside windows or doors. If possible and safe to do so, faculty and staff should direct students to a building with a basement for shelter.

### **Storm shelters during business hours**

In addition to the lowest levels of residence halls provided to residents of those buildings, it is the practice of the University to make the basement areas of Raley Chapel, Shawnee Hall, and Thurmond Hall available to OBU students and employees during business hours when there is potentially bad weather.

### **Storm shelters after business hours**

Any time after business hours when the National Weather Service places the Shawnee area under a Tornado Watch, Police and/or Security Officers will open Raley Chapel north and south exterior doors for students and employees. Yarbrough Auditorium in Raley Chapel will be opened as needed.

Police and/or Security officers will direct anyone in the university community seeking shelter to Raley Chapel. Officers will notify Police Dispatch when the buildings have been opened for shelter purposes.

### **Pets**

Pets, other than service animals, will not be allowed inside the shelters.

## **Campus Safety Emergency Response Team**

If a decision is made to activate the Campus Safety Emergency Response Team each member will respond as soon as possible. The primary location for each team member to respond will be the basement of Thurmond Hall. The secondary location will be Shawnee Hall.

## **Campus Safety Emergency Response Team Members**

Executive Vice President for Business and Administrative Services

Associate Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students

Associate Vice President For Marketing and Communications

Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs/ Information Systems and Services

Director of Campus Services

Director of Facilities Management

Chief of University Police

Director of Residential Life and Student Activities